

# Fund of Valuable Facts

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east, and the Gila Valley, 200 miles west of us, land values, without water rights, range from \$50 to \$150 per acre. Water rights under these projects will cost approximately \$70 per acre. Land in the Mimbres Valley having the same agricultural value is selling from \$7 to \$15 per acre for relinquishments and from \$25 to \$75 per acre for patented land. Water rights under pumping for irrigation, experience in the valley has shown to cost not to exceed \$30 per acre, and in many instances less. The advantages of pumping where each individual owns his own pumping plant over the ordinary gravity system have been thoroughly demonstrated in California, where several hundred thousand acres of land are watered entirely with pumps.

Not more than 10 per cent of the available 125,000 acres of irrigable land is patented, the balance being held under the Homestead or the Desert Claim Act. This land has been located within the last three years, and homestead and desert proofs are being made by actual settlers; but thousands of acres are on the market at the prices above stated, many people being willing to part with their right for a consideration of \$7 to \$15 per acre. The 125,000 acres of available agricultural land has been pretty well determined from wells that have been drilled within this territory. It is not unlikely that future developments will add 50,000 or perhaps more to the commercial area, or what we assume now to be not over an 85-foot lift.

While there are many districts in California in which water is pumped at a depth of 125 feet for ordinary farm crops, the generally accepted belief here is that 85 feet is the limit of commercial pumping. It will probably be demonstrated in the future that this lift can be increased to 100 feet, for the general conditions in this valley compare favorably with conditions in California.

The soils of the Mimbres valley are of the typical desert type, producing, when water is available for irrigation, alfalfa, Mexican beans, forage crops of all kinds, melons, onions, tomatoes, all garden vegetables and small fruits, including pears, apples, peaches, plums, in fact everything except citrus varieties.

The climate is semi-arid, the rainfall in the valley proper averaging about eight inches per year. The temperature reaches zero, and then for a day only. The ground freezes occasionally to a depth of two or three inches, which lasts but a few days. The maximum summer temperature is about 100. The first frost occurs about the 10th of October.

The growing season is long and vegetable growth is rapid. The nights are cool and, with all, the climate is as nearly ideal as can be found.

There is a general uniformity in the irrigation pumping plants, the type having been taken from the California field. Wells are drilled with a boring machine from 150 to 200 feet deep, casing installed in these holes having a perforated area matching the gravel strata which furnish the water. Pits are dug large enough to install pumps of the vertical centrifugal type, and gasoline engines furnish the required power.

The cost of the complete installation varies somewhat according to the lift and quantity of water desired. Plants that are irrigating from 100 to 180 acres and with ultimate capacity probably of 400 acres cost from \$2,500 to \$5,000, a 25 or 40 horse power engine costing from \$1,500 to \$1,500, the best type of pump from \$500 to \$900, a well \$300 to \$500, and the casing from \$300 to \$500. This estimate refers to the larger plants. There are many small plants in the valley irrigating from twenty to forty acres and which cost from \$600 to \$1,200. It is probable that the future development of this valley will be in the forty-acre tracts. Just now, while land is cheap, investors who have sufficient money install the larger plants. However there are many more smaller plants costing from \$600 to \$1,200 and irrigating small tracts of land.

There are several questions which will naturally present themselves to any visitor. First, the character and the supply of water. Analysis of the water here shows from 30 to 35 parts of total solids in 100,000 parts of water. It is free from alkali, gypsum or lime salts. Its temporary hardness is about 12; its permanent hardness is about 9. It is the purest water in the Southwest. That it exists in an inexhaustible quantity is demonstrated.

It is safe to say that 400,000 acre feet of water sink into the underground system annually. This would allow at least 3 acre feet per acre for 125,000 acres, granting that all of this amount of land were under actual cultivation. Other questions that arise are: Will the soil produce? That has been demonstrated beyond question. Next, is there a market for the products raised? Alfalfa, Mexican beans, forage crops, potatoes, onions and fruits are "legal tender." Again, is there sufficient margin of profit left to the farmer after the expense of watering his land is paid?

Alfalfa yields five cuttings per

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